plate of the esclator were lossely held and got shifted under pressure creating a gaping hole resulting in the accident;

(2) The escalator was not upgraded;

(3) The reaction of various functionaries present on the sport of accident was inadequate and lacked sensitivity; and

(4) The treatment meted out to the affected persons was quite inadequate considering the extraordinary nature of the accident.

(c) Four employees of AAI have been suspended and disciplinary proceedings have been initiated against them.

International Traffic Rights for Public Sector Airlines

1993. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to allow international traffic rights to the Public Sector Airlines for five years following their privatization;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether it is fact that as a result thereof, the private airlines would not be allowed to operate on international flight and if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (c) The Civil Aviation Policy under formulation seeks to, *inter-alia*, address these issues. The draft of the Policy has been widely circulated for views/comments before finalisation.

Foreign Consultants for leasing of Airports

1994. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 459 given in the Rajya Sabha on 29th February, 2000 and state:

(a) whether Government are appointing foreign consultants to suggest strategic deal in the matter; and

(b) if so, the reasons for engaging a foreign consultants?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) Consultancy bids were invited on global basis to select bidders who are well experienced and having technical expertise in the field to provide inputs regarding the complex financial issues like due diligence, valuation of assets, sales memorandum preparation, etc. connected with privatisation of airports through long-term lease. After evaluation of technical and Economic Services Limited (RITES), New Delhi has been selected for appointment as Financial Consultant. One of the criteria for selection was that foreign consultant must have a tie up with an Indian Consultant.

Construction of New Terminal Building at Delhi Airport

1995. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Airports Authority of India has envisaged any scheme for the construction of new terminal building for Delhi Airport; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) Airports Authority of India (AAI) has plans for constructing a new international terminal building in a built up area of 2,26,000 sq.m with a capacity to handle 6.5 million passengers per annum. AAI is updating the cost estimates and carrying out financial appraisal so that the proposal can be submitted to the Public Investment Board.

Reservation of Tickets on International Routes

1996. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA:
SHRI AMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the international passengers who intend to fly in and out of Indian to London and other foreign countries have to book their seats at least 6 months in advance during the season in order to perform their journey to those countries;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Shortage of air seat capacity is generally experienced during peak